

"Ten years ago I found a hybrid blackberry raspberry growing wild. A wild cherry as large as any cultivated cherry. Made them into pies and they were splendid. Wild grape vines 60 feet long. Also an annual grape that dies down every year, and produces large bunches of wild grapes (wine color). This is a very valuable vine for all grape growing countries. I also know of several very valuable varieties of the spineless cactus, growing so naturally."

VENEZUELA. Caracas. Mr. H. Pittier writes April 5-13, as follows: "I have gotten information yesterday on a fruit they call Chirimo-riñon and which is said to be a cross between *Annona cherimolia* and *A. squamosa*. The prospects were certainly not good here at first. Fortunately President Gomez is a man of good sense and good will and I found also in several of his Secretaries and in Dr. Jahn a very strong help, so that to-day it looks as if things were coming my way. At my suggestion, they have abandoned the idea of spending half a million in erecting in the wilderness of Maracay, buildings for a problematic school. The farm there will be used for an Experimental breeding Station and at my suggestion they have asked the Bureau of Animal Industry to send a good cattle man, not a baby Veterinary surgeon, but an experienced breeder, to take charge of it. The position is a fine one for the right man. On the other hand, instead of a school, they will establish here in Caracas, a real agricultural station, taking as a start the existing embryonic Estacion agronómica. They will also have nurseries and a distributive center that will do more good than all the theoretical teaching in the world. I have had lectures started on agriculture, horticulture and gardening at both the Escuelas de Artes y Oficios for men and women and in the latter they are giving the first steps towards the establishment of a big garden which the girls will cultivate themselves under the direction of Mr. Miesse, the present chief of the Agronomic Station. The same thing will be done at the normal school for girls and I am expected to start a course of lectures there in a few days. Last but not least, I am going to give a lecture next Tuesday, to the farmers, on some important points in coffee cultivation. You see, then, that since my last letter, there has been something doing, and that I have borne high the flag of the Agriculture Department."